webserver@yucca-web.ymp.gov on 01/09/2008 10:36:09 PM

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To: EIS_Comments@ymp.gov
cc:
Subject: EIS Comment

User Filed as: Not Categorized in ERMS

January 09, 2008 22:36:09

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The Commentors Name:
---> Dr. Norman D. Meadow Ph.D.

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Comment Text :
--> I strongly support the production of electricity from nuclear energy. At the moment I'm active with a local conservation organization in Maryland (the Maryland Conservation Council) in its support of Constellation Energy Corporation's attempt to get a license for a third reactor at its Calvert Cliffs power plant. The MCC has recognized that the health effects of exposure to low levels of radioactivity have been badly exaggerated in the news media. The MCC also recognized that the production of an amount of electricity equivalent to that of the proposed nuclear reactor would require such a large number of wind turbines that the impact on wildlife habitat would likely be severe and that would encounter vigorous opposition from local residents.

Other renewable energy sources also have serious problems in their application. Biomass will require an immense area of land to produce in meaningful quantities. Photovoltaic devices are still too expensive, and even if their cost is significantly reduced, their use would require retrofitting homes and commercial buildings at a cost that would be politically difficult to impose.

Nuclear plants can produce this power reliably, with no risk to the health of the public, and with a minimum of impact to the biological world.

As far as the Yucca Mountain Repository is concerned, my feeling is that unless its current design provides for retrieval of the stored fuel in the

future it should not by built. This fuel will almost certainly be suitable for reprocessing in the future. Your website gives the impression that the repository will be permanently sealed, yet a brief publication from the Nuclear Energy Institute ("Safely Managing Used Nuclear Fuel") states that the design for Yucca Mountain does provide for future retrieval. Could you clarify this disparity?

In sum, I support the approach to spent fuel storage as presented by the Health Physics Society in its position paper "Managing Spent Reactor Fuel" as revised June 2007. That paper essentially calls for storage in way that permits future retrieval and productive re-use.

I live in Maryland, am recently retired, and have a scientific background. I spent the last 35 years of my career on the senior research staff in the Biology Department of The Johns Hopkins University. My avocation for many years has been helping to conserve biological resources.
